

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B- 4779

1. Name

Historic 502 - 518 South Chapel Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 502 - 518 South Chapel Street
City, town
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The west side of the 500 block of S. Chapel St. is built up with three different styles of houses, each representing different periods.

The earliest, at 502 S. Chapel is a very early house hidden under its formstone covering. It is typical of the two-bay wide, one-room deep, 2 ½ story brick houses with gable roofs and dormer windows (since removed) built in the 1790s and early 1800s. The house is notable for its one-room-deep floor plan and steeply-pitched gable roof—a plan seen on some of the earliest Federal-period houses in the area.

The house is two-and-a half stories in height, one-room deep, and has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The house is probably constructed in Flemish bond, but the brick has been covered with formstone. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. There is a double-flued chimney stack located at the peak of the gable roof. There is also a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition.

The door and window openings are have either splayed brick or wood lintels, and wood sills, but these are hidden beneath the formstone. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. At one time the doorway had a single-light transom and now there is a modern paneled replacement door. The house sits on a medium-height basement, lit by a single-light transom. The entrance is reached by three brick steps. An arched alleyway runs between the two houses. The houses are only one room deep, the front room being entered directly from the front door. The stairs are located at the rear of the main room and ascend in a tightly winding curve to the second floor. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen. The dormer story has a single large room beneath the high rafters.

Continuation sheet

512-514 S. Chapel St. are a pair of early Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and simple, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices built in the 1870s. One house retains its original painted brick facade, but the other has been covered with formstone. The houses are two stories in height, two small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by simple scroll-sawn modillions set against a deep, plain frieze area. The tall, narrow window and door openings have flat wood lintels and sills. The openings are filled with replacement 6/6 and 1/1 sash. The doorways have single-light transoms. One door, at 512 may be original, with its five horizontal panels; the other is a modern replacement. The houses sit on low basements, each entrance being reached by three concrete or brick steps.

516-518 S. Chapel St. are a pair of three-story, two-bay wide gable-roofed brick houses with simple brick corbelled cornices built in the 1850s. The brick facades were originally painted, but now one is covered with formstone. The houses are three stories in height, two small rooms deep with a one-story backbuilding. The houses are constructed in common bond and were originally painted. The pitched gable roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. A dormer window has been added to 518 but it is not original to the house. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof, along the outside wall of each unit, serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. Door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills. All of the windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and the houses have replacement paneled doors. The houses sit on low basements and each house is reached by two brick steps. A flat linteled sallyport runs back between the pair of houses to the rear yards.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1795; c. 1855 - 1875

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

502 S. Chapel St. is especially significant as being among the earliest surviving houses in the city, many of which are found in Fells Point. These houses, two-and-a-half stories in height, have only one main room on each floor, with a one or two-story rear addition. Houses of this type were built in the 1790s at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Chapel Street was known as Star Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

512 - 514 and 516 - 518 S. Chapel St. are significant as representing later infill housing probably occupying the site of former frame houses. Their early occupants were mainly German-Americans who worked in the area's early small factories.

The houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4779
502-518 S. Chapel Street
Block 1782 Lots 080-075
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





516-518 S Chapel

FPR

B- 4779

502-518 S. Chapel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage

4/97

1/3

1281359 0211 N N N 42



B-4779

502-518 S. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

C. Beffore

6/17

2/3

512-514 S Chapel

FPS

L2913559 0211 11 11 11 11



502 S Chapel
FPR

8-4779

502-518 S. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

6/97

3/3

ES01359 0211 N N N 4 C